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Baghdad car bomb kills 30

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18 September, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Baghdad car bomb kills 30

BNE: A car bomb killed at least 30 people in Baghdad and wounded 38 others on Saturday. A suicide bomber drove his car into a crowded marketplace and then detonated his bomb. It is the latest in a series of deadly attacks that have killed hundreds of Iraqis in the past few days. Most of the dead have been Shiite Muslims. Al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu al-Zarqawi, has announced he wants civil war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the country. Despite the recent attacks against them, Shiites have so far decided not to retaliate.

The latest wave of violence is part of what Zarqawi calls "total war". He said it is revenge for a huge attack by US and Iraqi troops, who were hunting down Sunni fighters in the northern town of Tal Afar last week. The bloodiest response since then was a giant car bomb on Wednesday that killed 112 Shiite laborers. That was one of 11 explosions that rocked Baghdad and caused 182 fatalities. Zarqawi seems to be timing the attacks to upset next month's referendum on Iraq's new constitution.

WARM-UPS

1. MY COUNTRY: Iraqi people live with the danger of violence and violent death. In pairs / groups, talk about what it must be like to live in such conditions. What are the greatest dangers in your town?

2. SENTENCE STARTERS: In pairs / groups, agree on an ending to the following sentence starters about Iraq. Talk about them. Change partners and compare your sentence endings.

- a. Suicide bombings are _____.
- b. Al-Qaeda in Iraq will _____.
- c. An Iraqi civil war _____.
- d. Living in Baghdad _____.
- e. Sunni Muslims should _____.
- f. The future of Iraq _____.
- g. Peace and democracy _____.
- h. The world _____.

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Car bombs / Baghdad / marketplaces / Al-Qaeda / violence / civil war / peace / democracy / explosions / constitutions / Iraq's referendum

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. BAGHDAD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Baghdad. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. MY HEADLINES: In pairs / groups, write down three headlines you would like to see come from Iraq. Talk about the possibility of these headlines coming true.

6. 2-MINUTE DEBATES: Engage in the following 2-minute debates. Students A take the first argument, students B the second. Change partners often.

- a. Peace will come to Iraq. vs. Peace will never come to Iraq.
- b. It was a mistake to invade Iraq. vs. Invading Iraq was essential.
- c. Arab countries should help keep order in Iraq. vs. The UN should help keep order.
- d. The suicide bombers will win. vs. The suicide bombers will fail.
- e. Iraq should break up into different states. vs. Iraq should stay one country.
- f. NATO should help fight terrorists in Iraq. vs. That would make things worse.
- g. The constitution will help bring peace. vs. The constitution will not bring peace.
- h. The UN should help start a ceasefire. vs. Al-Qaeda would never listen to the UN.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A car bomb exploded outside a Baghdad police station killing 30. | T / F |
| b. All of the victims were Sunni Muslims. | T / F |
| c. The head of Al-Qaeda in Iraq said it was part of a new civil war. | T / F |
| d. Shiite Muslims fought back immediately. | T / F |
| e. The head of Al-Qaeda in Iraq said there is now total war in Iraq. | T / F |
| f. US and Iraqi troops have been hunting down Shiite fighters. | T / F |
| g. Many people were killed with rocks in Baghdad last week. | T / F |
| h. The recent bombings may be to upset next month's referendum. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. wounded | fight back |
| b. crowded | cruellest |
| c. detonated | deaths |
| d. deadly | packed |
| e. retaliate | lethal |
| f. latest | hurt |
| g. bloodiest | workers |
| h. laborers | most recent |
| i. fatalities | vote |
| j. referendum | exploded |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. A car bomb killed at | deadly attacks |
| b. suicide | huge attack |
| c. the latest in a series of | bomber |
| d. civil | of violence |
| e. Shiites have so far decided not | that rocked Baghdad |
| f. The latest wave | least 30 people |
| g. revenge for a | constitution |
| h. hunting down | to retaliate |
| i. one of 11 explosions | war |
| j. Iraq's new | Sunni fighters |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Baghdad car bomb kills 30

BNE: A car bomb killed at _____ 30 people in Baghdad and wounded 38 others on Saturday. A _____ bomber drove his car into a crowded marketplace and then detonated his _____. It is the latest in a series of _____ attacks that have killed hundreds of Iraqis in the _____ few days. Most of the dead have been Shiite Muslims. Al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu al-Zarqawi, has announced he wants _____ war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the country. Despite the recent attacks _____ them, Shiites have so far decided not to _____.

The latest _____ of violence is part of what Zarqawi calls "total war". He said it is _____ for a huge attack by US and Iraqi troops, who were _____ down Sunni fighters in the northern town of Tal Afar last week. The _____ response since then was a _____ car bomb on Wednesday that killed 112 Shiite laborers. That was one of 11 explosions that _____ Baghdad and caused 182 _____. Zarqawi seems to be timing the attacks to _____ next month's referendum on Iraq's new constitution.

bomb
civil
suicide
retaliate
least
past
against
deadly

upset
rocked
hunting
giant
wave
fatalities
bloodiest
revenge

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words **'total'** and **'war'**.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "IRAQ" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about Iraq and the chances of peace in the next six months.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| • least | • wave |
| • crowded | • revenge |
| • latest | • hunting |
| • few | • giant |
| • civil | • rocked |
| • retaliate | • timing |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. How many times have you seen headlines similar to this one?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. What adjectives describe your feelings about Iraq?
- d. What adjectives describe your feelings about suicide bombers?
- e. Do you think civil war will break out in Iraq?
- f. Do you think Iraq is a new Vietnam for America?
- g. What do you think can be done to end the suicide bombings?
- h. If you were Iraqi, would you stay in the country?
- i. Do you think the referendum on the constitution will bring changes in Iraq?
- j. What single step would help create peace in Iraq?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. What do you know about pre-Saddam Hussein Iraq?
- d. What is Al-Qaeda fighting for?
- e. Do you think the fighting would stop if Sunnis were given a fairer role in the Iraqi constitution?
- f. We always hear the fighters are being beaten. What do you think about this?
- g. Why do you think Shiites have so far not retaliated?
- h. What would be the consequences of civil war in Iraq?
- i. What kind of future do you see for Iraq?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

IRAQI PREDICTIONS: In pairs / groups, make predictions about the future of Iraq. Use the items in the column on the left. Write a timescale in the other column describing what you think will (or will not) happen.

ITEMS	PREDICTION AND TIMESCALE
Referendum	
Free elections	
Civil war	
Suicide bombings	
US forces in Iraq	
Saddam Hussein	
Al-Qaeda	

Change partners and share your predictions and timescales. Discuss how far you agree with your partner's predictions.

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Baghdad car bomb kills 30

BNE: A car bomb killed _____ 30 people in Baghdad and wounded 38 others on Saturday. A suicide bomber drove his car into a _____ marketplace and then detonated his bomb. It is the latest in _____ deadly attacks that have killed hundreds of Iraqis in the past few days. Most of the dead have been Shiite Muslims. Al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu al-Zarqawi, has announced he wants _____ between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the country. Despite the recent attacks against them, Shiites have _____ decided not to _____.

The latest _____ of violence is part of what Zarqawi calls "total war". He said it is _____ for a huge attack by US and Iraqi troops, who were _____ down Sunni fighters in the northern town of Tal Afar last week. The bloodiest _____ since then was a giant car bomb on Wednesday that killed 112 Shiite laborers. That was one of 11 _____ that rocked Baghdad and caused 182 fatalities. Zarqawi seems to be timing the attacks to _____ next month's referendum on Iraq's new constitution.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on Tal Afar. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. THE PLAYERS: Make a poster describing the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in Iraq. Try to explain some of their demands and differences. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. DIARY / JOURNAL: You live in Baghdad. Write your diary / journal entry for one day in your life. Write about your feelings towards the bombers, the Americans and the world community. Read your diary / journal to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. F e. T f. F g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. wounded | hurt |
| b. crowded | packed |
| c. detonated | exploded |
| d. deadly | lethal |
| e. retaliate | fight back |
| f. latest | most recent |
| g. bloodiest | cruellest |
| h. laborers | workers |
| i. fatalities | deaths |
| j. referendum | vote |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. A car bomb killed at | least 30 people |
| b. suicide | bomber |
| c. the latest in a series of | deadly attacks |
| d. civil | war |
| e. Shiites have so far decided not | to retaliate |
| f. The latest wave | of violence |
| g. revenge for a | huge attack |
| h. hunting down | Sunni fighters |
| i. one of 11 explosions | that rocked Baghdad |
| j. Iraq's new | constitution |

GAP FILL:

Baghdad car bomb kills 30

BNE: A car bomb killed at **least** 30 people in Baghdad and wounded 38 others on Saturday. A **suicide** bomber drove his car into a crowded marketplace and then detonated his **bomb**. It is the latest in a series of **deadly** attacks that have killed hundreds of Iraqis in the **past** few days. Most of the dead have been Shiite Muslims. Al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu al-Zarqawi, has announced he wants **civil** war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the country. Despite the recent attacks **against** them, Shiites have so far decided not to **retaliate**.

The latest **wave** of violence is part of what Zarqawi calls "total war". He said it is **revenge** for a huge attack by US and Iraqi troops, who were **hunting** down Sunni fighters in the northern town of Tal Afar last week. The **bloodiest** response since then was a **giant** car bomb on Wednesday that killed 112 Shiite laborers. That was one of 11 explosions that **rocked** Baghdad and caused 182 **fatalities**. Zarqawi seems to be timing the attacks to **upset** next month's referendum on Iraq's new constitution.